GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:954
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
FACILITIES IN MENTAL HOSPITALS
ASHOK KUMAR PATEL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor health services provided in hospitals to patients suffering from mental illness;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide more facilities to such patients and to improve the condition of the hospitals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(c): Epidemiogical studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population have major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders. There are over 18,000 beds for psychiatric patients spread across 37 Government mental hospitals in the country and about 3500 beds located in general hospitals/hospitals affiliated to medical colleges. Availability of psychotropic drugs is satisfactory and the cost of such drugs is reasonable/affordable. Under the National Mental Health Programme, the Government has already initiated a pilot programme named the District Mental Health Programme, which is currently being implemented in 25 districts covering 20 States and Union Territories. Its aim is to identify persons suffering from various mental disorders and epilepsy and manage them at the primary health care center and district level by trained doctors and with the active support of the families and the community in which the mental patient lives. It is also envisaged to strengthen the Government Mental Health Institutions and Psychiatric Units of Medical Colleges and widen the coverage of district mental health programmes during the 10th Five Year Plan.